

PALEONTOLOGY.—*Two aberrant crinoid specimens.* HARRELL L. STRIMPLE, Copan, Okla.

(Received June 20, 1957)

Aberrant forms of life are not acceptable as taxonomic units, but it is thought the specimens discussed herein might provide useful information in genetic or future taxonomic studies.

An abnormal crinoid calyx of *Laudonocrinus* sp. undt., with a diameter of 6.5 mm, was collected by Arthur Bowsher, now with the U. S. Geological Survey, while a student several years ago at the University of Tulsa. The exposure was located in the center of the north half of section 31, township 23 N., range 12 E., Osage County, Okla., and was designated as the Avant limestone formation, Ochelata Group, Pennsylvanian. The specimen is in the U. S. National Museum and camera-lucida drawings are given below.

As will be noted, the posterior interradius

of this specimen is occupied by six elements. Normal representatives of the genus have only three elements, which are the radial (RA), first anal (X), and right second anal (RX). The plates in the present specimen are designated as follows: The element to the right and below the left posterior radial (LPR) is termed inferradial (LPiR); the element to the right of LPR and LPiR is termed the first anal (X); the element directly above X and to the right of the LPR, being the second anal, is termed superanal (sX); the element to the right of LPiR and below RA is termed inferradial (iRA); the element above iRA and to the right of X is termed radial (RA); the element above RA and to the right of sX is termed right second anal (RX). Of the above elements the three normal plates for the genus are RA, X and RX as has been previously noted. Some of the more ancient Paleozoic crinoids possess an inferradial or superradial, but such elements are not found in late Paleozoic crinoids.

Another abnormal crinoid calyx was collected several years ago by Claude Bronaugh, Oklahoma Military Academy, in the Fayetteville formation, Chester, Mississippian, some three miles southwest of Afton, Okla. It is a representative of *Phanocrinus alexanderi* Strimple (1948), with a diameter of 10.3 mm, and has five plates within the posterior interradius. The plates are referred to as follows: LPiR, X, sX, RA and RX. The specimen thus differs from the aberrant *Laudonocrinus* in the absence of iRA.

The two specimens are of widely different ages yet have in common two elements not found in late Paleozoic crinoids, which are LPiR and sX. The author is unable to attach any special significance to this occurrence, but it is hoped they will be useful in subsequent studies.

LITERATURE CITED

STRIMPLE, HARRELL L. *Notes on Phanocrinus from the Fayetteville formation of northeastern Oklahoma.* Journ. Pal. **22**: 490-493, 1948.

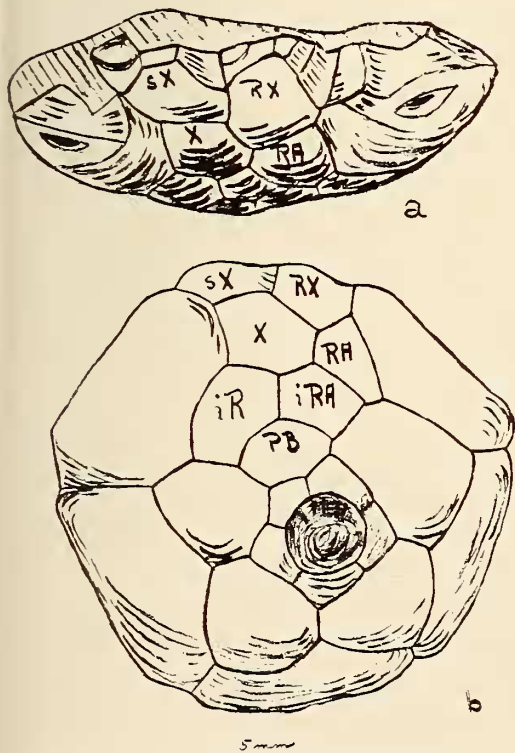


FIG. 1.—a, b, *Laudonocrinus*, sp. undt., view of dorsal cup from posterior and below.